



Teachers' Strategies in Increasing Student Learning Motivation in the Subject of Moral Beliefs

M Mahbubi, Andi Wulan Purnama

Universitas Nurul Jadid Paiton Probolinggo

Email: mahbubi@unuja.ac.id, andiwulanpurnama12@gmail.com

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Abstrak

Motivasi belajar merupakan aspek penting dalam proses pendidikan, khususnya mata pelajaran Akidah Akhlak yang menuntut pemahaman mendalam tentang nilai-nilai keagamaan. Motivasi belajar dapat dipengaruhi oleh berbagai faktor, termasuk strategi pengajaran guru. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi strategi yang digunakan oleh guru dalam meningkatkan motivasi belajar siswa pada mata pelajaran Akidah Akhlak. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kasus. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara mendalam, observasi, dan studi dokumentasi pada guru dan siswa di MTs. Nurul Jadid Paiton Probolinggo. Tujuan penelitian ini untuk mengetahui strategi guru dalam meningkatkan motivasi belajar siswa pada mata pelajaran Akidah Akhlak dan mengetahui dampak dari strategi tersebut terhadap motivasi belajar siswa. Upaya guru dalam meningkatkan motivasi belajar siswa melalui pendekatan intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Pendekatan intrinsik mencakup pemberian penghargaan, pengakuan atas kemampuan, serta bimbingan. Sementara itu, pendekatan ekstrinsik melibatkan penggunaan metode pembelajaran yang variatif, penciptaan lingkungan belajar yang kondusif, dan penetapan tujuan pembelajaran yang jelas. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa guru menggunakan berbagai strategi untuk meningkatkan motivasi belajar siswa, termasuk menjelaskan tujuan belajar, mengapresiasi siswa yang berhasil menghafal *nadzam* dengan cepat, memberi *punishment* bagi siswa yang tidak menghafal *nadzam* dalam jangka waktu tujuh hari, membangkitkan semangat belajar siswa, mengingatkan jasa orang tua, guru harus bisa menjadi teladan yang baik, dan menggunakan metode yang bervariasi, serta penggunaan teknologi dalam proses pembelajaran.

Kata kunci: strategi guru, motivasi belajar, Akidah Akhlak.

Abstract

Learning motivation is an important aspect in the educational process, especially the subject of Akidah Akhlak which requires a deep understanding of religious values. Learning motivation can be influenced by various factors, including teacher teaching strategies. This study aims to explore the strategies used by teachers in improving students' learning motivation in the subject of Akidah Akhlak. The research method used is a qualitative method with a case study approach. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation studies of teachers and students at MTs. Nurul Jadid Paiton Probolinggo. The purpose of this study was to determine the strategies of teachers in improving students' learning motivation in the subject of Akidah Akhlak and to determine the impact of these strategies on students' learning motivation. Teachers' efforts in improving students' learning motivation through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. The intrinsic approach includes giving awards, recognition of abilities, and guidance. Meanwhile, the extrinsic approach involves the

use of varied learning methods, creating a conducive learning environment, and setting clear learning objectives. The results of the study showed that teachers used various strategies to improve students' learning motivation, including explaining learning objectives, appreciating students who managed to memorize the nadzam quickly, giving punishment to students who did not memorize the nadzam within seven days, raising students' enthusiasm for learning, reminding parents of their services, teachers must be able to be good role models, and using various methods, as well as the use of technology in the learning process.

Keywords: teacher strategies, learning motivation, Akidah Akhlak.

Introduction

The quality of education in Indonesia is so concerning. The lack of enthusiasm for learning, especially in the subject of Moral Faith, is one of the factors that hinders the progress of the nation. In fact, an educated and noble generation is the key to the country's progress. Education is like the main pillar in understanding social transformation, especially in relation to development and life welfare. Education plays a vital role in human life, especially in society, to pass on noble values from generation to generation (Thoha, 2022). Therefore, the education of the current generation must be honed in order to pass on knowledge to the next generation. Education aims to make the young generation intellectual, spiritual, and able to control themselves and be able to grasp the future of the nation with knowledge (Munif et al., 2021).

Learning is a conscious process to change behavior and attitudes. In order to be enthusiastic about learning, students must have motivation to learn. This is considered important because it is considered important considering its role in determining the learning goals that must be achieved by students. If students have good learning goals, then it can be said that the student has a strong motivation to learn. Motivation is a person's encouragement, desire, and need to do a certain activity. Motivation plays an important role in influencing student learning activities, because motivation is a

good academic reward system. Therefore, teachers must be able to increase students' motivation to learn so that they have a good enthusiasm and interest in learning (Khoerunnisa et al., 2021). Learning motivation is divided into two types, *intrinsic* (coming from within the student) and *extrinsic* (coming from outside the student). The success of student learning is greatly influenced by their motivation to learn. The willingness and drive to learn is the main key in achieving learning success (Ariza & Muhammad, 2021). According to Ach. Kiromuddin Characteristics of student behavior such as interest, attention, activity level, and active participation in the learning process can be used as indicators to measure the level of student learning motivation (Kiromuddin, 2024).

The educational process, both in the family, community, and school, has a great influence on the growth of students' learning motivation. Values such as compassion, tolerance, and religiosity play an important role in shaping a young generation that is characterful, resilient, and faithful (Safitri et al., 2024). The educational process aims to develop students' ability to adapt to their environment, which will ultimately change them (Nurmaliza et al., 2021).

The subject of Moral Beliefs has an important role in human life. This subject instills values that can drive change and progress for humanity. The Qur'an, as the main source of Islamic teachings, contains many values that directly or indirectly give

great meaning to life. The learning of Moral Beliefs focuses on the actualization of two aspects, namely between knowledge and implementation. This learning is part of Islamic Religious Education which leads to the creation of good birth and inner behavior, so that it is able to balance between oneself and oneself (Nurjannah et al., 2020).

Just like other schools, MTs. Nurul Jadid Paiton Probolinggo also instills the values of Moral Faith in its students. Religious education in this madrasah aims to form and develop professional and skilled Muslim people. Teachers have an important role in shaping the nation's next generation. It is hoped that students can grow and develop well, not only in terms of science and intellect, but also in morals and character. Therefore, in addition to parents, teachers also have a moral responsibility to provide a good example to students (Ansori et al., 2024). A good teacher is one who teaches not only knowledge, but also good education and commendable morals. This is especially true for teachers of Moral Faith.

In an era full of rapid changes and developments, teachers have a role to open students' minds. Teachers help students to understand and adapt to the ever-evolving world (Mahbubi & Husein, 2023). Teachers can also be said to be motivators who play a crucial role in raising enthusiasm and advancing the learning process of students. Teachers must trigger and nurture students' potential, encourage independence and creativity, and create an active and dynamic teaching and learning process (Syukri Azwar Lubis et al., n.d.). On the other hand, teachers have a responsibility to motivate students because the ability to motivate students is one of the main requirements for being a good teacher (Hidayatullah et al.,

2023). In our environment, teachers are understood as teachers in schools who have noble character and should be exemplified by their students. In addition, teachers are also required to be able to manage the classroom well, and create a conducive learning environment for their students (Achadah, 2019).

One of the important aspects of classroom management is choosing the right learning strategy. Teachers who understand and master various learning strategies will find it easier to adjust learning methods and materials to the needs and characteristics of their students. The application of monotonous and teacher-centered learning strategies can trigger boredom in students, so it can hinder the teaching and learning process (Agus Dwi Santosa & Nuril Laila Alhidayah, 2022).

Based on the results of observations made by the researcher when interviewing Akidah Akhlak teachers, the researcher found *problems* in the learning process, namely low levels of focus and concentration, only a few students showed enthusiasm in listening to the teacher's explanations, lack of motivation to learn was characterized by students showing less enthusiasm for learning and less active in participating in learning, students' busyness with other activities, such as playing and chatting with friends, and students often go in and out of class. This can interfere with the smooth teaching and learning process. Seeing several problems that occurred, the researcher was interested in researching teachers' strategies in increasing student learning motivation in the subject of Moral Beliefs.

Research Methods

This study uses a qualitative method with case studies as the approach. In

qualitative research, data is in the form of information obtained and conveyed in the form of words, sentences, stories, and images (Fattah Nasution, 2023). Qualitative research is a certain habit that fundamentally depends on the observation of humans and their environment (Ariza & Muhammad, 2021). A case study is a research method that aims to deeply understand a particular problem. In the case study, the researcher will analyze and describe in detail the selected case, be it the community, policy, or institution (Haryono, 2023).

The research location is located at MTs. Nurul Jadid Paiton Probolinggo. The researcher collected data through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation studies to Akidah teachers. Observation is a qualitative data collection technique that is carried out directly by observing student behavior. Through participatory observation, researchers can obtain richer and more accurate data. The observation data is then compiled in the form of points for further analysis. An *interview* is a two-way conversation between the interviewer and the interviewee. The main purpose of *the interview* is to obtain information from the interviewee. Documentation is the process of collecting, organizing, storing, and disseminating information in various forms, such as books, magazines, journals, articles, minutes, reports, notes, videos, photos, images, and so on. Documentation can be in both print and digital formats. In addition, documentation is also a data collection technique that functions as supporting data in research (Mahbubi et al., 2021).

Results And Discussion

In this section, the researcher describes the discussion and results of interviews conducted with Akidah teachers at MTs. Nurul Jadid Paiton Probolinggo.

1. Strategies applied by teachers in increasing student learning motivation in the subject of Moral Beliefs

Strategy comes from the word "strategia" which means the art of planning. In the context of learning, a strategy is a plan that is prepared to deliver learning materials effectively (Restiana Dinda, 2022). Teaching strategies are systematic approaches chosen to achieve predetermined learning goals (Yasin & Komariyah, 2023).

According to Waziroh, a teaching strategy is an effective action plan to achieve goals or objectives that are greatly influenced by the way the material is presented and the learning method chosen (Waziroh & Asyari, 2019). Like a compass, a strategy provides direction and guidance for individuals or organizations in achieving the targets they want to achieve. In the world of education, learning strategies can be likened to a harmonious piece of music, where teachers and students work together to achieve predetermined goals. This strategy is not just a series of ordinary activities, but is the result of well-structured and well-planned interactions and learning dynamics.

A learning strategy can also be interpreted as a systematic and structured plan or approach used by teachers to achieve the learning goals that have been set. This strategy can be a series of steps, methods, or techniques designed to facilitate the teaching and learning process and help students achieve the expected competencies (Eliana, 2021). In this context, the goal to be achieved is to increase students' learning motivation in the subject of

Moral Beliefs at MTs. Nurul Jadid Paiton Probolinggo. Strategies are not only in the form of planned steps, but must also be able to adapt to unique and different learning situations. This means that this strategy must be able to be adjusted to the characteristics of students, school conditions, the surrounding environment, and the learning goals to be achieved, so that it can meet the needs and challenges faced in the teaching and learning process (Arifin & Kartiko, 2022). The use of various learning strategies in the teaching and learning process is very important to maintain students' interest in learning, improve their understanding of concepts, and achieve the learning goals that have been set. Variations in learning strategies will create an active, innovative, and fun learning atmosphere (Sufiani & Putra, 2023).

In order to improve students' learning motivation strategies, teachers must be able to arouse students' internal motivation by triggering their interest and desire to learn. Thus, students will have an inner drive to learn and achieve their goals. Motivation and enthusiasm in the learning process of Akidah Akhlak function like oxygen that provides energy and awareness to students. Without motivation, the learning process will feel empty and uninteresting. Therefore, teachers of the Moral Faith play an important role in increasing student motivation, which will ultimately help achieve the goals of effective and quality Moral Faith learning.

In an effort to increase students' motivation to learn, teachers need to develop more interesting and different

learning strategies. The purpose of this strategy is to eliminate boredom and boredom, as well as make it easier for students to understand the subject matter. An example of this strategy is to give rewards to students who succeed in memorizing the *nadzam* Aqidatul Awwam quickly, and to give *punishment* to students who do not memorize the *nadzam* within a period of seven days, so that they feel motivated and enthusiastic in learning (Interview with the teacher of the religious class of 7 MTs. Nurul Jadid Paiton Probolinggo, Sunday, June 23, 2024).

Based on the results of the interview, here are some strategies carried out by teachers to increase students' learning motivation in the subject of Moral Beliefs at MTs. Nurul Jadid Paiton Probolinggo:

- Explain the learning objectives. In the early stages of learning, teachers should explain the goals they want to achieve to students. The clearer students understand these goals, the higher their motivation to strive and achieve them. Thus, students will better understand the material, focus, and enthusiasm in learning, as well as increase their sense of responsibility and effective learning ability.
- Appreciating students who manage to memorize *nadzam* quickly can be a strong motivator. This strategy can increase students' enthusiasm and motivation to learn, as the rewards can spark balanced competition, increase confidence, and encourage students to continuously improve their abilities. In addition, this strategy can also

create a positive and conducive learning atmosphere, as well as increase the spirit of learning evenly among all students.

- Punishment for students who do not memorize *nadzam* within a period of seven days.
- Arousing students' enthusiasm for learning is by giving them intensive and personal attention during the learning process, so that they feel cared for and valued.
- Reminding parents of their services, this can arouse the spirit of learning with love and appreciation.
- Teachers must be able to be good role models. Being a teacher is not only about delivering subject matter, but also about being a good example for students. This is very important so that input from teachers can be well received by students.
- Using a variety of methods. Leaving conventional learning methods and using varied methods is an important step to improve the quality of learning. By applying appropriate and varied methods, teachers can empower students' competencies comprehensively and help students reach their potential.
- Learning is carried out using technology. With technology, the learning process becomes more effective. Students can easily understand difficult concepts and feel more motivated to learn. For this reason, we must be good at utilizing various technological innovations to remain relevant to the times.

The strategy that has been explained aims to emphasize the role of

teachers as guides and supporters of students in the learning process. Teachers should abandon the conventional teacher-focused teaching methods and switch to a more collaborative and student-focused approach. In carrying out their roles as teachers, supervisors, leaders, and administrators, teachers must show a high attitude of discipline, responsibility, awareness, and confidence. Thus, teachers can have a positive impact on the overall development of students. The ability of teachers to motivate students is the key to achieving optimal growth. A teacher who cannot motivate students is considered to not understand effective teaching strategies.

2. Increasing Student Learning Motivation in Moral Beliefs

Learning motivation is the main driver that drives students' enthusiasm and behavior in learning. According to Clayton Aldeerfer in Nasshar quoted by Frandy Pratama et al, learning motivation is a spirit that encourages students to actively learn something with the aim of achieving optimal learning success. This spirit comes from the desire and passion in students to understand and master knowledge (Sufiani & Putra, 2023). Motivation is divided into two, namely *intrinsic* that arises from within the student without external influences, and *extrinsic* that is influenced by external factors such as others or awards (Ariza & Muhammad, 2021). The indicators of learning motivation are internal and external encouragement in learning, desire to achieve success, future orientation, attractiveness of learning activities, awards, and a conducive learning environment (Syachtiyani & Trisnawati, 2021).

Teachers' efforts in implementing learning motivation strategies in the subject of Akidah Akhlak have proven to have a significant positive impact on students' achievements, morals, and knowledge about Islamic studies. This is evidenced through an interview with Mrs. Qurratu Aini, where she explained the various positive effects observed on her students, including:

- Better behavior. There is an increase in students' respect and obedience to teachers and parents.
- Improvement of academic achievement. Students showed better learning performance, as seen from the increase in report card scores.
- Gradual moral improvement. There are positive changes in students' behavior and morals gradually.
- The change in report card scores from bad to good. Students who previously had unsatisfactory report card scores showed a significant improvement in learning performance.
- Knowledge of the wider teachings of Islam. Students have a deeper understanding of different aspects of Islamic teachings.

The results of this interview from Mrs. Qurratu Aini show that appropriate and effective learning motivation strategies can have an extraordinary influence on student development, not only in terms of academics, but also in terms of morals and religious knowledge. This is a reminder for educators, especially teachers of Akidah Akhlak, to continue to innovate and improve the quality of their learning in order to produce the next generation of the nation who have faith, knowledge, and noble character.

Based on the information provided, the researcher found that the strategies applied by teachers in the learning process of Akidah Akhlak have shown positive results. This is evidenced by the gradual increase in student learning motivation. Previously, the teacher observed that some students were less enthusiastic and unmotivated in learning the Moral Faith. However, after the implementation of the strategy, there was an increase in students' enthusiasm and activeness in participating in learning. Despite this, researchers also noted that some students still need special attention. This is because each individual has unique characteristics, so it requires different learning approaches and strategies.

Although various efforts have been made to increase students' motivation to learn, there are still several obstacles that need to be overcome. These obstacles include:

- Lack of support from outside the school. Support from family and the surrounding environment is very important for students' motivation to learn. This lack of support can make students feel discouraged and unmotivated to learn.
- Negative influence of technological advances. Rapidly evolving technology can have both positive and negative influences on students. On the one hand, technology can help students in learning. However, on the other hand, technology can also be a distraction and make students lazy to study.
- Family background, such as parents' education level and family economic conditions, can affect students' motivation to learn. Students who come from underprivileged families

or with parents who do not have higher education can reduce students' motivation to learn.

- Students who are difficult to guide. There are some students who do have characteristics that make it difficult to guide and motivate. These students require special attention and approach from teachers.

As a result of these obstacles, students' motivation to learn can be low and only last for two days. Therefore, the role of teachers is very important in providing motivational support to students.

In addition to the role of teachers, the environment outside of school also has a significant impact on students' motivation to learn. Negative influences from the surrounding environment, such as promiscuity and drugs, can make students lose motivation to learn. On the contrary, positive influences from the surrounding environment, such as religious activities and social activities, can help students to increase their motivation to learn.

Thus, teacher motivation and a positive environment are essential for students to develop a strong foundation in learning. This foundation will help students to face social pressures and negative influences from society, and encourage them to achieve success in the future.

CONCLUSION

Based on the descriptions presented above, it can be concluded that this study aims to identify teachers' strategies in increasing students' learning motivation in the subject of Akidah Akhlak in MTS. Nurul Jadid Paiton Probolinggo. The results of the study show that teachers must use various appropriate learning strategies in order to

increase students' motivation to learn. The teacher's strategy in increasing learning motivation in the subject of Akidah Akhlak at MTs. Nurul Jadid Paiton Probolinggo is to explain the learning objectives, appreciate students who succeed in memorizing *nadzam* quickly, give *punishment* to students who do not memorize *nadzam* within a period of seven days, arouse students' enthusiasm for learning, remind parents of services, teachers must be able to be good role models, using a variety of methods, and learning is carried out using technology. With several strategies used by these teachers, it is proven to increase students' motivation to learn in the subject of Moral Beliefs which is characterized by gradual changes in behavior, increased report card scores, and increased knowledge of Islamic teachings for students. However, the lack of support from outside the school, the negative influence of technology that cannot be controlled by students, unsupportive family backgrounds, and there are some students who are difficult to guide are obstacles. It is recommended that teachers, students, and parents cooperate in creating a conducive learning environment.

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